(a) whether Railways pure bottled water 'Rail Neer' is freely available in running trains as well as in the open market;

(b) whether its price is higher than the other bottled water available in the market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Rail Neer is available at the stations over Northern Railway and North Central Railway and some of the trains originating from Delhi area. Rail Neer is meant for Railway passengers and, as such, is not made available in the open market.

(b) and (c) The sale price of 'Rail Neer' on Railway premises including trains is Rs. 10/- per 1000 ml bottle.

Discrimination in recruitment in NF Railway

3293. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that local aspirants for posts in North Frontier Railway are deprived of by the Railway Board from recruitment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the cause of appointing only 16 local aspirants, when about 1000 posts were given to the aspirants from outside the North East Region of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Recruitment figures are not maintained State-wise. Railway recruitment Boards have an all India character. Railway Recruitment Boards recruit staff to various Group 'C' and 'D' posts calling for applications from candidates from all over the country. The recruitment is done on the basis of the individual performance and merit position of the candidate without any cognizance to the state, region, creed or religion of the candidate.